THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (d) Taking cognizance of Public Interest Petition in the High Court, Delhi alleging irregularities in the issue of Custom Duty Exemption Certificates to private hospitals/ diagonostic centres for import of medical equipments, Shri K. Chandramouli, Former Joint Secretary and Chief Vigilance Officer of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare was appointed to investigate the case of certain hospitals/institutions. After investigation, Shri Chandramouli submitted his report directly to the High Court, Delhi on the basis of which departmental action was initiated where called for. The progress is being reported to the High Court of Delhi. Cases of other hospitals where Custom Duty Exemption Certificates' were issued under Notification No. 64/88 dated 1.3.88 are also under scrutiny/investigation by Committees appointed by the High Court and the Ministry. The process for grant of Custom Duty Exemption Certificate or withdrawal of the same where called for has been streamlined. The said Government Notification has since been rescinded with effect from 1.3.94.

बिहार के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में स्वास्थ्य उप-केन्द्रों का कार्यकरण

2024. **श्री जनार्दन यादव:** क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1995-96 तथा 1996-97 के दौरान बिहार के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में कितने स्वास्थ्य उप-केन्द्र खोले गए थे;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि उन स्वास्थ्य उप-केन्द्रों में न तो डाक्टर और न ही नर्सें और दवाएं उपलब्ध हैं जिसके कारण बीमार व्यक्तियों की असमय मृत्यु हो जाती है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस कुप्रबंध को कब तक दूर कर दिया जाएगा?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री (श्री सुरेश प्रभु): (क) केंद्रीय सरकार के पास उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार 1995-96 और 1996-97 के दौरान बिहार राज्य में कोई नया उपकेन्द्र नहीं खोला गया।

(ख) और (ग) एक उपकेन्द्र निवारक परिचर्या प्रदान करना है; एक उपकेन्द्र के लिए कर्मचारी संबंधी मानकों के अनुसार, केवल एक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता (पुरूष) तथा एक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता (महिला)/सहायक नर्स मिडवाइफ उपलब्ध कराए जाते हैं, केंद्रीय सरकार अनुमोदित औषधों की खरीद के लिए 2000 रुपए प्रतिवर्ष, प्रति उपकेन्द्र प्रदान करती है जिसकी खरीद संबंधित राज्य सरकारों द्वारा की जाती है। सहायक नर्स मिडवाइफ के बहुत से पद इस समय बिहार में खाली पड़े हं। राज्य सरकार को राज्य में प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य परिचर्या में आधारभूत ढांचागत कमियों को पूरा करने के लिए इन पदों को भरने हेतु नियमित अंतरालों पर सलाह दी जा रही है।

Deaths due to rabies

2025. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 25,000 people die every year from rabies all over the country;

(b) the number of deaths on account of rabies during each of the last three years;

(c) whether lack of anti-rabies antidotes are the prime cause of these deaths;

(d) whether Government have any programme to control the rabies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to the figures made available by Central Bureau of Health Intellegience, the number of deaths on account of rabies in the State/UT during each of the last three years i.e. from 1995 to 1997 are as following:

Year	Deaths
1995	632
1996	281
1997	386 (Provisional)

(c) Shortage of anti-rabies vaccine has not been reported by any State/Union Territory.

(d) and (e) During the Sixth Plan period a

programme on limited scale for control of canine rabies was sanctioned in 16 States and one Union Territory. Each State/Union Territory was allocated one to two canine rabies control units. An amount of Rs. 117 lakhs, Rs. 192 lakhs and Rs. 334 lakhs were earmarked as central assistance for this programme during the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Plan.

During 1997-98 an amount of Rs. 70 lakhs was provided under this programme. This programme is being continued during the 9th Plan. At present a total of about 60 canine rabies control units are functioning in the country.

Arsenic contamination of water

2026. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether WHO have sounded alarm bell to India about Arsenic contamination;

(b) if so, the districts where groundwater is not meeting the safe limit of the chemical set by WHO; and

(c) what action Government have taken to contain this problem?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) WHO have drawn attention to the problems arising out of presence of Arsenic in Drinking Water Supplies in India and Bangladesh;

(b) The names of the Districts where Ground Water Quality is not meeting the Safe Limit of the Chemicals set by the WHO are (i) Murshidabad; (ii) Malda; (iii) Nadia; (iv) North 24 Parganas; (v) South 24 Parganas; (vi) Howrah; (vii) Hugli; and (viii) Burdhman.

(c) The State Government in collaboration with and financial support from Government of India has sanctioned a First Phase Action Plan to a cost of Rs. 858.33 lakhs whereunder replacement of Arsenic affected spot sources and big dia tubewells have already been completed, and four Water Supply Schemes have been fully commissioned. For Malda District, a surface water based piped Water Supply Scheme has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 8848 lakhs. Other works undertaken include;

(i) Installation of Arsenic removal plants.
(ii) Construction of sanitary protected ring wells.
(iii) Trial boring-cum-handpump fitted production wells.
(iv) Replacement of Arsenic affected spot sources.

Approval for a Surface Water based Piped Water Supply Scheme for Arsenic affected areas of South 24 Parganas district at an estimated cost of Rs. 232.84 crore has been accorded.

The All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health in Calcutta, of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has undertaken Epideriological Study in Arsenic affected areas under the sponsorship of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. This Institute carried out Ministry of Rural Development sponsored R&D Study for development of field model for Arsenic removal. The Institute also carried out Trainers Workshop, and field training for water quality analysis in respect of Arsenic contamination during 1997.

Eradication of Polio

2027. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any target for eradication of Polio in the country;

(b) if so, what arrangement have been made to achieve national target for eradication of polio in rural and urban areas of the country; and

(c) the details of the effective action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) The Government is aiming at eradication of Polio by the year 2000 A.D.

(b) and (c) 1. High Coverage in the routine immunization programme;